

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION * 925 HARBOR PLAZA * P.O. BOX 570 * LONG BEACH CA 90801

**PORT BREAKS FISCAL YEAR CONTAINER RECORD
Container Volume Drops 12% in September**

Oct. 23, 2002

The total number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach rose 4.5 percent to a record 4.7 million container units during the fiscal year from October 2001 through September 2002, based on preliminary figures.

“We are very pleased with our cargo volume,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. “The yearly total was stronger than was projected earlier in the year, when many economists were predicting a slowdown in imports because of weakness in the U.S. economy.”

Imports climbed 5 percent in fiscal 2002. The port’s leading imports include Asia-made computer components, electronics, clothing, shoes, furnishings, auto parts and toys. Amid a continuing slump in Asia, exports declined 4.4 percent. The port’s leading exports include computer components, factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and recycled waste paper.

The port’s previous fiscal year high was 4.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the 2000 fiscal year from October 1999 through September 2000.

“Our strong imports were dampened by a work stoppage, which shut down the port at the end of September, and resulted in a 12.4 percent decline in the total volume for September,” said Steinke.

The number of containers dropped to 340,339 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in September. Imports fell 14.3 percent to 188,674 TEUs. Exports declined 29.8 percent to 53,840 TEUs. The number of empty containers, most of them headed back to Asia to be re-filled with cargo, increased 7 percent to 97,825 TEUs.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world’s busiest container cargo seaports, a leading gateway between the U.S. and Asia. Nearly \$95 billion in trade moved through the port last year. General cargo is shipped in steel containers of various sizes. The standard measure for container cargo is the twenty-foot-long container or the twenty-foot-equivalent unit (TEU). More information is available at www.polb.com.

Port of Long Beach

Container Trade in TEUs*

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
Sep-02	188,674	53,840	242,514	97,825	340,339
Sep-01	220,204	76,724	296,928	91,451	388,379
% change	-14.3%	-29.8%	-18.3%	7.0%	-12.4%
Oct-01	238,185	82,255	320,440	114,428	434,868
Nov-01	193,861	75,879	269,740	102,345	372,085
Dec-01	191,584	83,660	275,244	84,299	359,543
Jan-02	180,528	70,944	251,472	93,173	344,645
Feb-02	202,276	83,334	285,610	77,373	362,983
Mar-02	171,874	87,845	259,719	83,887	343,606
Apr-02	227,953	87,961	315,914	94,286	410,200
May-02	231,382	84,062	315,444	112,589	428,033
Jun-02	236,112	75,814	311,926	107,051	418,977
Jul-02	249,618	70,499	320,117	131,800	451,917
Aug-02	234,592	71,086	305,678	121,558	427,236
Sep-02	188,674	53,840	242,514	97,825	340,339
Oct '01-Sept '02	2,546,639	927,179	3,473,818	1,220,614	4,694,432
Oct '00-Sept '01	2,426,264	969,699	3,395,963	1,095,727	4,491,690
% change	5.0%	-4.4%	2.3%	11.4%	4.5%

*TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container

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